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PUBLIC STATEMENT OF LOIS WHITNEY

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MS. WHITNEY: Again, thank you for coming to Shoshone territory.

My name is Lois Whitney. I'm a Western Shoshone descendant from Beowawe, and I also have residence in Elko, Nevada.

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And my message is of course that radiation in Western Shoshone territory and worldwide is not wanted. Did you hear what I said? Radiation in Western Shoshone territory and worldwide is not wanted, has no purpose.

I speak for those beings without a voice, but they have been impacted through colonization of our territory and now radiation.

True, radiation is a natural -- is in many natural energy sources and over time has resulted in natural catastrophes and has for millions of years changed all forms of life in many many ways. But man-engineered catastrophes has now come full circle.

In Western Shoshone territory, and I speak of Western Shoshone territory because this is where it affected us, and as I stated earlier, in the 40's, with the testing of the bombs, for the nuclear energy of war, it impacted Western Shoshone people because this is where it started. Test it on the Indians, the Shoshone people.

But let's not forget to mention the thousands of people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima who were affected by death and mutation. It was a form of genocide.

I think when you know the truth, some famous person said, it sets you free. I feel very free today in expressing to you people the danger of what nuclear engineering has done for our people, you and me.

We're significant, you and me. We're very significant. We are the ones that promote future generations. Corbin spoke to it.

Let's not speak about our generations as, oh, maybe. Why are we having children to populate this earth if it's going to be so sick? I don't understand that. We don't have a chance.

Now the proposed transportation and storage through U.S. territory comes in full circle, at least to us, to complete the whole

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cycle of genocide. Think about it. Man engineered catastrophes.

This is what this is about.

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Forming cancer. Cancer doesn't discriminate, doesn't discriminate against race or economics. It's going to affect all of us. There's no assurance of health and safety of the long term or our future. And there's no assurances that there will be adequate medical treatment or even compensation.

Somebody spoke about compensation for losses of mining claims and whatnot. I'm talking about life. Life is very important.

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It's insufficient, there is insufficient dollars that have been designated for native people in the event it affects us. Well, we have been affected since colonization. That's a long time. But we have seen a lot and we're willing to work with the people in the United States and worldwide.

Corbin has traveled all over the world. He's seen those things. We as native people have taken it upon ourselves as grass roots organizations to investigate the effects of nuclear and other issues against, negative issues against our people.

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Nevada is not a dumping place, and as Carrie said, and I think this is very important, Nevada has its own rain forest. But it's been destroyed, and it constantly is being destroyed by a number of economical advances, the mining, the watering, of course mining, the military. These things we need to think about as a people. We're being selfish because we're thinking of the immediate. We're not thinking of the long term here.

I would like to see and be able to count those generations after me, just like I was able to count the generations before me, because we had purpose. We still have purpose. Our purpose is to speak out and stop genocide against all people.

Nuclear man-engineered catastrophes needs to stop, and it's all of our responsibility, doesn't matter where we come from, it's all of our responsibility because we want to procreate. We want life. And there is no life with radiation.

Go to the test site. Go to these other countries that have experienced the effects of nuclear damage, and for those poor

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people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I'm ashamed for what we have done to them. It came from this country. It started in my territory, and it's come full circle, back to the Shoshone people, store it in their land.

This is our territory, yours and mine. Let's take care of it. Thank you.